

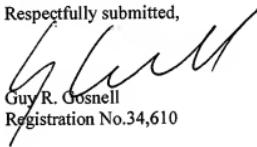
Appl. No.: 10/792,175
Filed: March 3, 2004
Amdt. dated 12/21/2010

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends the independent claims and several of the dependent claims prior to further examination of the present application. It is submitted, however, that the amended claims remain in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons that the prior claims had been allowed as evidenced by the Notice of Allowance dated September 2, 2010. As such, it is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Guy R. Gosnell

Registration No.34,610

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

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